



Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

Welcome To Our New Website

On January 1, 2011, the City of St. Louis launched its new website, <http://stlouis-mo.gov>. This new website will replace the City's current website, <http://stlouis.missouri.org>. Although the new website is up and running, it is still a work in progress.

The migration to the new site will be phased in over the next few months, aiming for completion by May 1, 2011. During this transition period, we hope our visitors take time to familiarize themselves with our new website and offer feedback that could improve our webpages.

The Recycling Program is still in the process of moving each of its webpages from the old site to the new site. When a recycling page has been successfully converted to the new site, we will remove information posted on the corresponding page of the old website and provide a link to the new page. The Recycling Program's new URL is <http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/street/refuse/recycle>. Please feel free to browse our new webpages and submit any feedback via the comment box posted at the bottom of each webpage.



Reverse Vending Machine (RVM)

Coca-Cola Recycling is hoping to get residents in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area that lack curbside pickup of their recyclables to "Reimagine" recycling. The company recently announced the launch of a reverse vending machine with a small automated materials recovery facility attached.

The machines accept aluminum and PET plastic beverage containers, regardless of brand. Consumers simply dump their unsorted beverage containers into an intake tray and the containers are then optically sorted and crushed. The bins can hold up to 65,000 aluminum beverage containers and up to 18,000 plastic beverage containers. Non-PET or -aluminum items are rejected by the sorting systems. The machines are designed for residents and organizations that lack easy access to recycling. Users can earn points for every bottle and can they recycle, which may be used towards sweepstakes contests



or donated to local schools. The first Reimagine machine was unveiled in a shopping center in Arlington, Texas on November 30, 2010. Coca-Cola Recycling hopes to bring the machines to more shopping centers by working in conjunction with grocery-chain Kroger. Sometime during the first half of 2011, the company will take a look at how the RVMs are performing, and evaluate where to go next. For more information, please visit www.reimaginerecycling.com.

January 2011 Upcoming Events

January 1 through January 31 - Time varies by location

Holiday Light Recycling Drive - People are encouraged to recycle non-working holiday lights and extension cords. www.stlouisgreen.com/lightrecyclingdrive.php

January 2 through January 31 - During Store Hours

Return of the Poinsettia - Compost your poinsettia at Bowood Farms for 10 percent of the houseplant of your choice. www.bowoodfarms.com

January 22 - 1pm-230pm

Creative Reuse Workshop: Transform a Picture Frame into a Dry Erase Board. www.perennialstl.org



Sweeping Up Cash

Employees in MoDOT's Sixth District (St. Louis Area) do a great job of keeping highways safe for motorists, but now they're helping the environment and saving the department money, too. Thanks to a dedicated sweeping crew and a new mobile screening unit, MoDOT has the potential to substantially reduce what goes in our urban landfills, while at the same time producing usable fill and saving taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Debris that accumulates on roadways is an eyesore, and can be unsafe for motorists. Larger items, like pieces of automobiles, can be a hurdle for vehicles to drive around or over, and smaller debris can clog drainage holes and create slick spots. That's why MoDOT crews have been sweeping its roadways for many years. However, until now, most of what was swept up was sent to the landfill, costing taxpayers thousands of dollars each year. With the help of MoDOT's new mobile screening unit, that is changing.

Becky Allmeroth, District 6 Maintenance Engineer, reported that most of what is swept off the roadways can now be reused or recycled. Debris collected from the roadway is emptied from the sweeper and screened by the mobile unit. The metals are separated out to be recycled and the remaining debris consists mostly of dirt, gravel, and grit, which can be used for fill. Now, instead of going to the landfill, up to 90 percent of what MoDOT sweeps up can be recycled or reused as fill in various road operations. This combination is saving the department hundreds of thousands of dollars in landfill costs alone. One cubic yard of sweepings weighs over one ton. Each year, thousands of cubic yards of sweepings are sent to landfills. Area landfills charge up to \$45 per ton to dispose of sweeping debris. From March to November 2010, night sweeping crews alone collected 2,224 cubic yards of road debris. To haul this straight to the landfill would have cost more than \$131,000. By filtering the debris and reusing or recycling the cleaned sweepings, the disposal cost was reduced to under \$20,000. Night crews represent only a fraction of the debris swept up in the St. Louis area. During the day, routine maintenance crews sweep up debris from other major roads, which is also screened by the mobile unit.

"This is a fantastic opportunity..." Allmeroth said. "We don't even know yet how much impact this could have, but hopefully it's something we can use statewide and potentially even promote to other states." Adapted from "MoDOT Sweeping Up Dirt and Turning It Into Clean Cash" by Melissa Black (www.modot.org).



Non-Toxic Oven Cleaning



If you did any baking during the holiday season, your oven may be marked with grease, oil, sugar, etc. While you may still be recovering from the frenzy of the holidays, waiting until Spring to clean up those splatters and spills could make their removal more difficult. The sooner you can attack baked-on food, the easier it will be to clean your oven.

To clean your oven without hazardous chemicals, fill a large, ovenproof dish with water and fresh lemon juice. Place the dish in the oven. Set the heat to 350 degrees and "bake" for 30-40 minutes. This will steam your oven and help loosen anything caked on. Turn off the heat and allow the oven to cool. You can then easily wipe the oven with a clean cloth. If you have stubborn areas, try mixing baking soda and water to make a paste, and scrub.

A City of St. Louis Refuse Division - Recycling Program Publication

Reader Submissions Welcome

Share your waste management-related questions, activities, "how to" tips, calendar items, etc. by e-mailing Blue Bin News at recycle@stlouiscity.com.

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